

POPPO

10¢

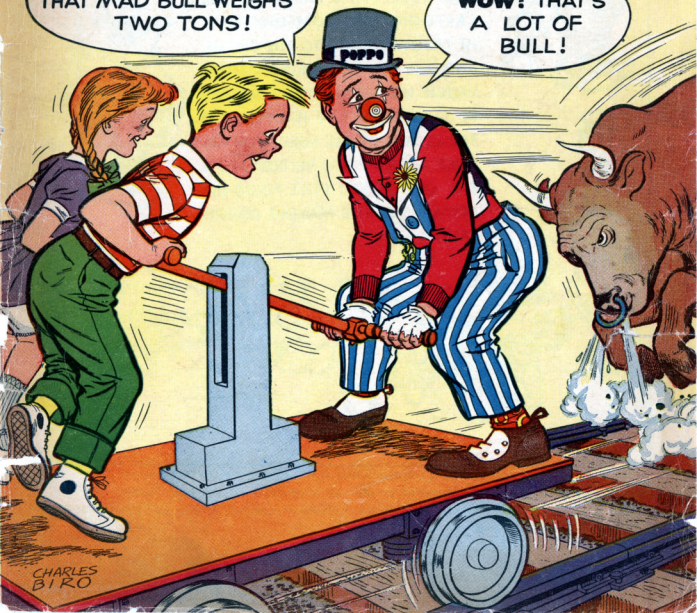
© COPYRIGHT 1955

of the POPCORN THEATRE

VOL. 1, NO. 11

FASTER, POPPO!
THAT MAD BULL WEIGHS
TWO TONS!

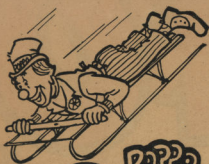
WOW! THAT'S
A LOT OF
BULL!



CHARLES
BIRO

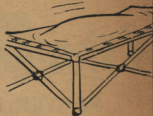


WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM



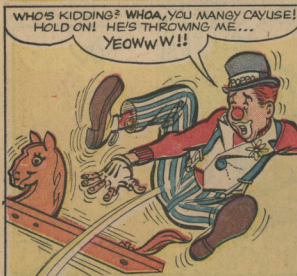
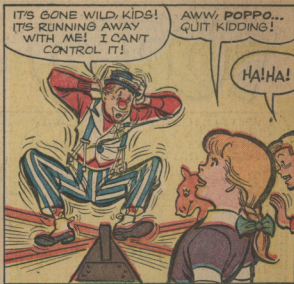
POPPO

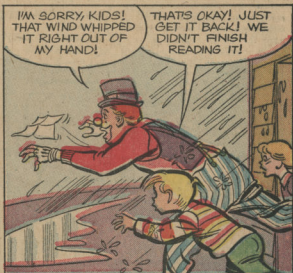
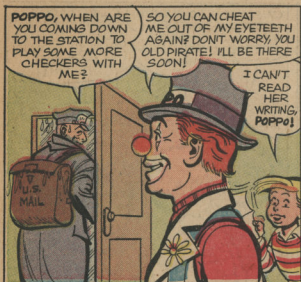
—THE CLOWN—WHO "CAN'T HELP LIKING KIDS", HAS TRAVELED THE WORLD OVER PHOTOGRAPHING HIS ADVENTURES—THE GREAT ACTS THAT PLAYED ON THE SAME BILL—AND COLLECTING PRINTS OF THE CARTOONS AND COMEDIES THAT HE ENJOYED. BORN TO THE CIRCUS, AND THE JOY OF MAKING OTHERS LAUGH, HIDING HIS OWN SORROWS SO OTHERS MAY BE HAPPY, HE IS THE CLOWN OF ALL AGES—FOR ALL AGES. NOW HE HAS RETIRED FROM THE CIRCUS, BUT STILL FINDS HIS REWARDS IN LIFE MAKING OTHERS LAUGH.

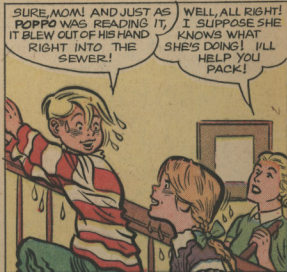


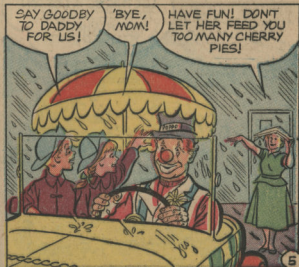
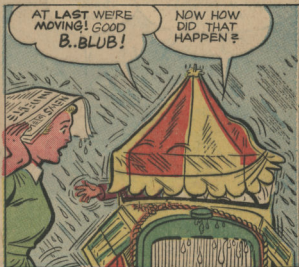
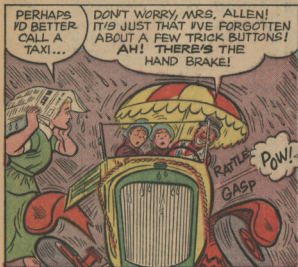
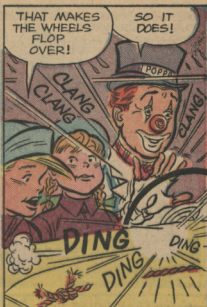
POPPO the CLOWN

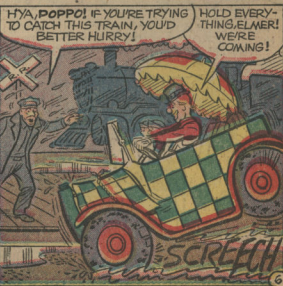
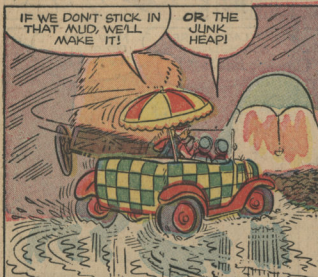
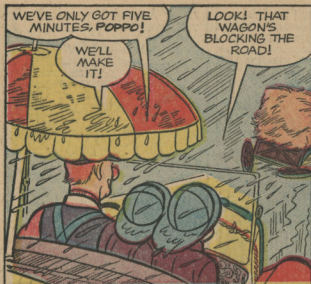


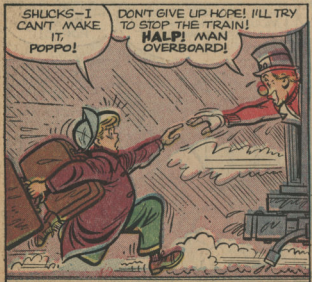
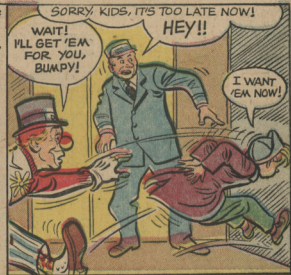
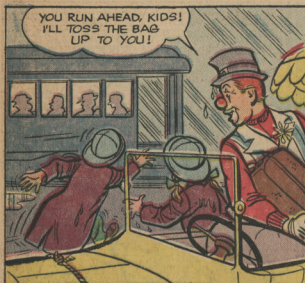


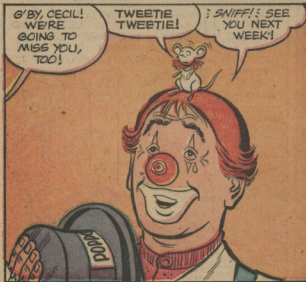
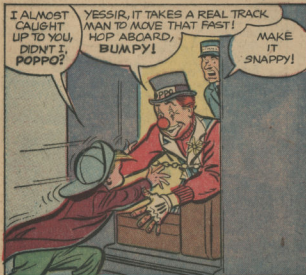
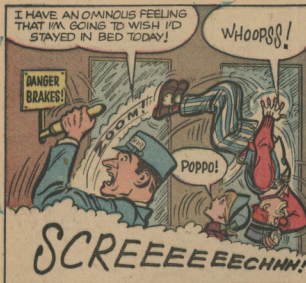












POPPO

"ONE BULL POWER"

WHAT'S THE
MATTER, ELMER?
HAVE YOU BEEN
DRAFTED?

THEY SAY I'M TOO OLD FOR THIS JOB, AND
THEY'RE RETIRING ME! I REMEMBER WHEN
A STATIONMASTER HAD TO CHOP WOOD FOR THE
ENGINES, REPAIR THE TRACK AND FIGHT OFF
THE INDIANS AT THE SAME TIME!

I WAS THE GUY WHO BROKE THE RECORD
ON OLD NUMBER 73! I WAS THE FIRST MAN
TO DRIVE A STEAM LOCOMOTIVE FROM
CHICAGO TO KANSAS CITY! I WAS... AW,
WHAT'S THE USE! MAYBE I AM 65, BUT
I'M AS GOOD A MAN AS I EVER WAS!
BUT YOU CAN'T CONVINCE PIG-
HEADED PEOPLE LIKE THAT!

WELL, NO USE BUTTING MY HEAD AGAINST A
STONE WALL! THEY'VE DECIDED A MAN'S
WASHED UP AT 65, AND NOBODY'S GOING TO
CHANGE THEIR MINDS! MIGHT AS WELL RELAX
AND EAT! HERE, HAVE A DOUGHNUT!
THEY'RE FRESH BAKED!

THANKS!
DON'T MIND
IF I
DO!

I GAVE THAT TO YOU
FOR EATING, NOT
PUTTING IN YOUR
HAT! WHAT'S
THE IDEA?

I ALWAYS
SPLIT
EVERYTHING
WITH CECIL!

SEE!

WELL, I'LL BE...

TWEETIE
TWEETIE!

NOW, HOW ABOUT
THAT CHECKER GAME
YOU WERE SO SET
ON? IF YOU CAN'T
LIKE ME, I'LL LET
YOU CHALLENGE
CECIL!

I'LL BET HE
PLAYS A
BETTER
GAME THAN
YOU AT THAT!
OKAY,
YOU'RE
ON!

ONE, TWO, THREE! GOOD THING CECIL COULDN'T SEE YOU MAKE THAT FOOLISH MOVE, OR HE'D NEVER STOOP TO PLAY YOU!

DRAT! GOT TO DISTRACT HIS ATTENTION SOMEHOW!

MY, OH, MY! LOOK AT THAT RAIN COMING DOWN!



I HOPE IT DOESN'T WASH OUT ANY OF THE TRACKS! I'M KIND OF WORRIED ABOUT THE KIDS!

THERE NOW! THAT SHOULD IMPROVE THE SITUATION!



I WAS JUST SETTING YOU UP FOR THIS, AND DID YOU FALL FOR IT!

HEY! THAT'S NOT WHERE I WAS!

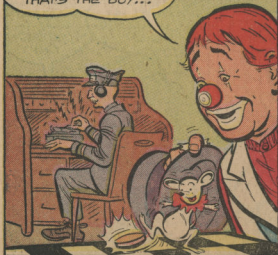


YOU WERE SO! I'VE GOT TO ANSWER THIS TELEGRAPH MESSAGE! DON'T TOUCH ANY OF MY MEN WHILE I'M GONE!

ME?? I WOULDN'T TOUCH THEM FOR THE WORLD!



EASY DOES IT, CECIL! THAT'S THE BOY...

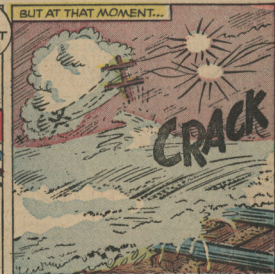


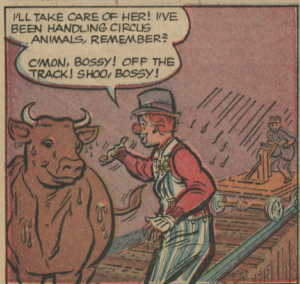
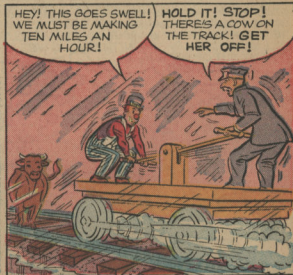
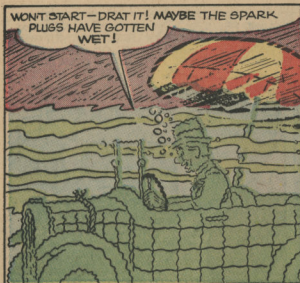
THIS STORM HAS GOTTEN EVERYBODY EXCITED! IN MY DAY WE USED TO PUSH ON THROUGH CYCLONES! THEY'RE NUTHIN' BUT SISSIES!

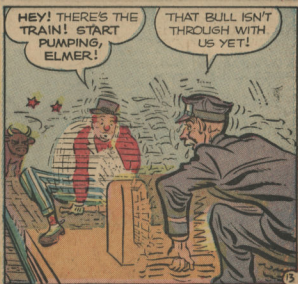
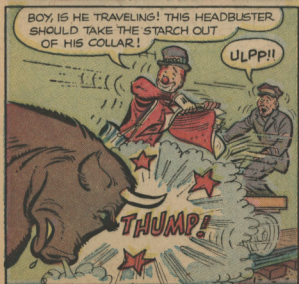
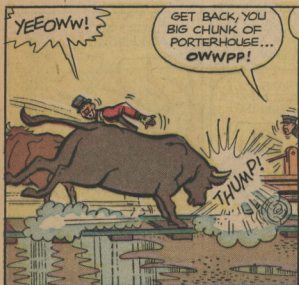
ZAT SO?

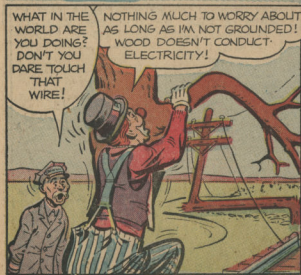
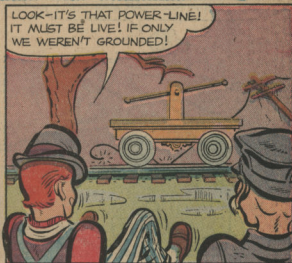
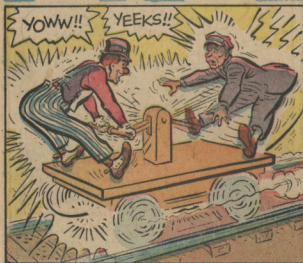
IT'S YOUR MOVE, POPPO, AND YOUR LAST ONE!

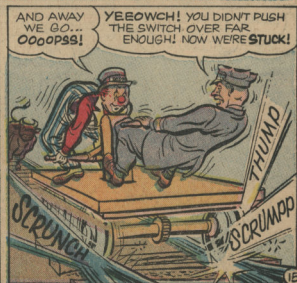
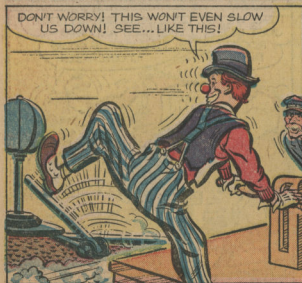
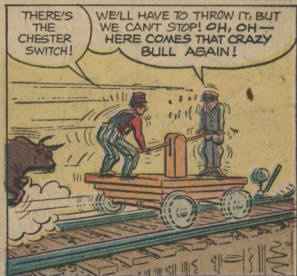
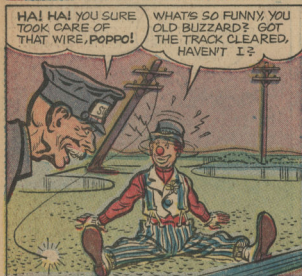
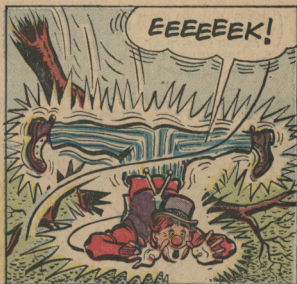


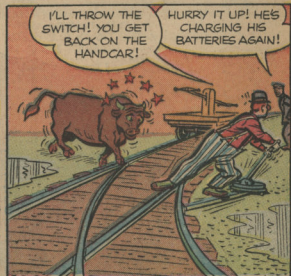
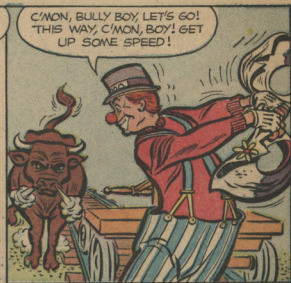
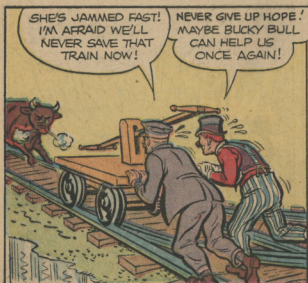










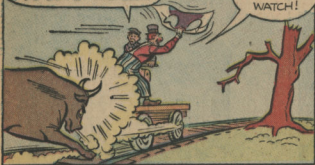


POPPO

HANDY WITH A HANDCAR

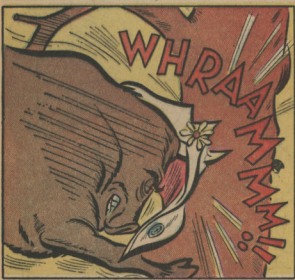
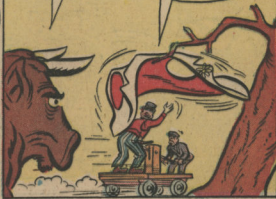
WE'RE NEVER GOING TO GET RID OF THAT BATTERING RAM! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ELSE!

NO SOONER SAID THAN DONE... WATCH!



??????

THAT BULL REMINDS ME OF SOME PEOPLE... THEY NEVER LEARN!



THAT SHOULD DEEP-FREEZE HIM FOR A WHILE! GOOD-BY, BUCKY OL' PAL! THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!

THERE'S THE TRAIN!



SHOULDN'T WE BE AHEAD OF IT AT THIS POINT?

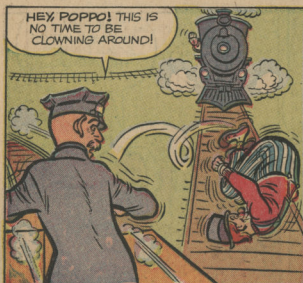
THAT WAS THE WHOLE POINT!



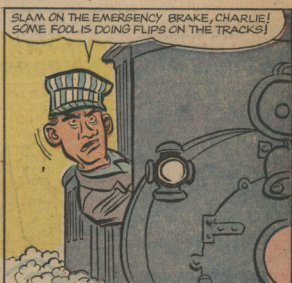
THEN PUMP FASTER! THEY'RE GOING TO BEAT US TO THE BRIDGE!

WHAT HAPPENS TO US IF IT'S A TIE?





HEY, POPPO! THIS IS NO TIME TO BE CLOWNING AROUND!



SLAM ON THE EMERGENCY BRAKE, CHARLIE! SOME FOOL IS DOING FLIPS ON THE TRACKS!



WOW! THIS THING SURE HAS GOT GOOD BRAKES!

GOODNESS!



HEY, POPPO! TAKE YOUR ACT SOMEPLACE ELSE!

DON'T GO AN INCH FURTHER!



THE BRIDGE HAS BEEN WEAKENED BY THE STORM! WE TRIED TO SEND YOU A MESSAGE, BUT THE WIRES ARE DOWN! YOU'VE GOT TO TURN BACK!

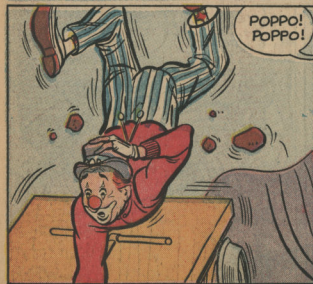
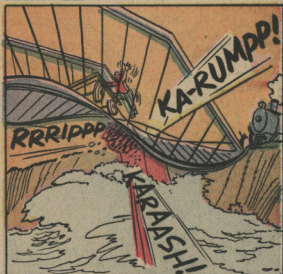
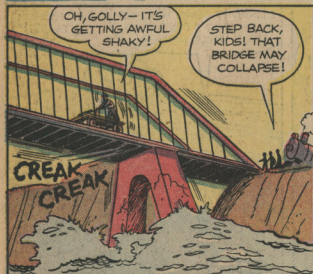
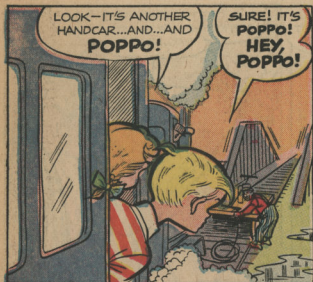
JUST BECAUSE YOU SAY SO? WE'VE GOT A SCHEDULE TO MAINTAIN!

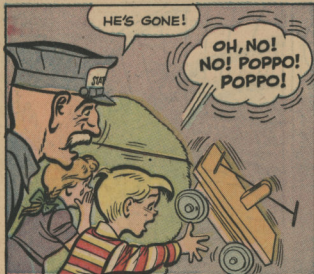


LET ME TEST IT FIRST! TIE A ROPE TO ONE END OF OUR HANDCAR AND I'LL GO OUT ON THE BRIDGE!

I'VE BEEN OVER THAT BRIDGE A THOUSAND TIMES! A LITTLE RAIN ISN'T GOING TO HURT IT!

MAYBE HE'S RIGHT! IT'S WORTH A TEST! OKAY—GO AHEAD, POPPO!





SOME OF THE TRACK BEHIND YOU MAY BE WASHED OUT BY NOW! WE'LL GO AHEAD ON THE HANDCAR AND RUN INTERFERENCE FOR YOU!

WE'LL BE ALL DAY IF WE HAVE TO CRAWL BEHIND YOU!



POPPO SAVED ALL OF OUR LIVES! I'M GOING TO LISTEN TO HIM THIS TIME! WE'LL SWING AROUND, AND DO AS HE SAYS!

TAKE US ON THE HANDCAR WITH YOU, POPPO!

SORRY, KIDS! YOU'LL BE SAFER ON THE TRAIN!



WHAT A LOT OF NON-SENSE! HOLDING UP THIS WHOLE TRAIN JUST BECAUSE OF A SILLY CLOWN!

THAT SILLY CLOWN, AS YOU CALL HIM, IS THE BRAVEST GUY I'VE EVER SEEN! THIS STORM WAS THE WORST IN THIRTY YEARS, AND I'VE GOT A HUNCH WE'RE IN FOR MORE TROUBLE!



THE TRACK IS COVERED WITH WATER, POPPO! THINK WE'D BETTER STOP AND SEE HOW DEEP IT IS?

IT CAN'T BE TOO DEEP! LET'S PUSH ON THROUGH!



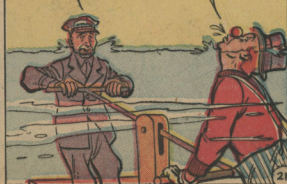
WELL, IT IS A LITTLE MORE THAN A WET SPOT, BUT WE'VE GOT TO KNOW ITS DEPTH, OR THE TRAIN MAY NOT GET THROUGH IT!

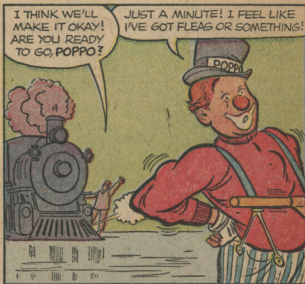
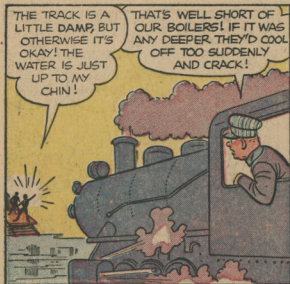
YOU'RE RIGHT! IF THE WATER REACHED THE FIRE BOX, IT WOULD STALL IT!



IF WE GO DOWN ANY FURTHER I'M GOING TO START SWIMMING!

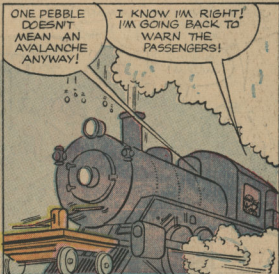
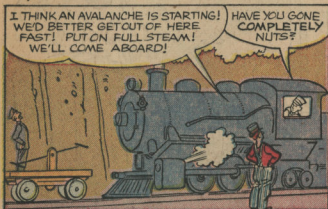
THIS REMINDS ME... I WONDER IF I LEFT MY BATH WATER RUNNING?





POPPO

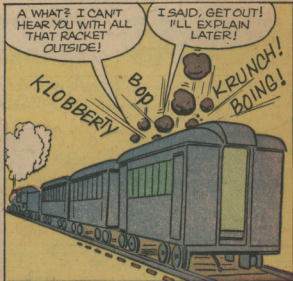
"FOLLOW THE LEADER"





BUT I'M NOT HUNGRY! GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!

YOU'LL NEVER BE HUNGRY AGAIN IF YOU DON'T GET OUT OF HERE! I TOLD EVERYBODY STEAKS SO THERE WOULDN'T BE A PANIC, BUT WE'RE ABOUT TO BE HIT BY AN AVALANCHE!



A WHAT? I CAN'T HEAR YOU WITH ALL THAT RACKET OUTSIDE!

I SAID, GET OUT! I'LL EXPLAIN LATER!

KLOBBERY

Bop

KRUNCH! BOING!



JUST A MINUTE, YOUNG MAN! I HARDLY KNOW YOU! DON'T SHOVE!

SORRY, MA'AM!

KERASHH!



I SURE OWE POPPO AN APOLOGY! HE WAS RIGHT AND I WAS DEAD WRONG!

THERE'S NO TIME TO THINK ABOUT THAT NOW! HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE MAY HAVE BEEN INJURED! WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK THERE!



THOSE POOR PEOPLE! WE'LL HAVE TO TRY AND HACK OUR WAY INTO THAT CAR! IT'S TERRIBLE!

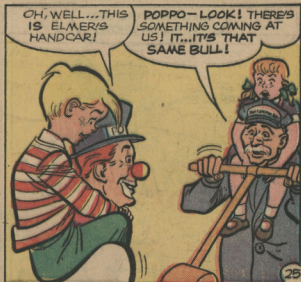
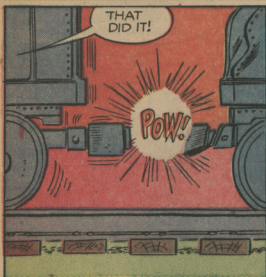
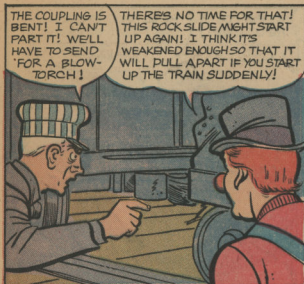
IT'S OKAY! I GOT 'EM ALL OUT! BUT I'M AFRAID YOU OWE EVERYBODY A STEAK... I KIND OF PROMISED THEM!

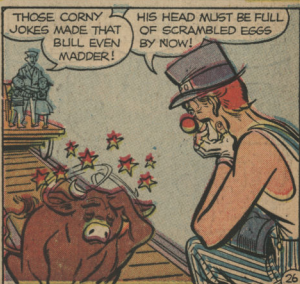
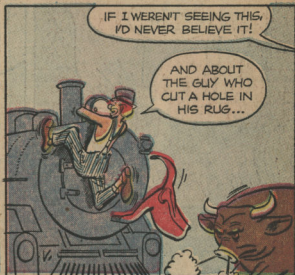
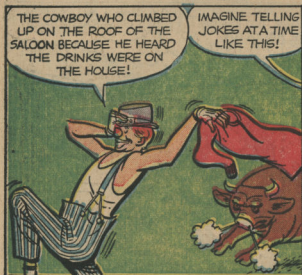


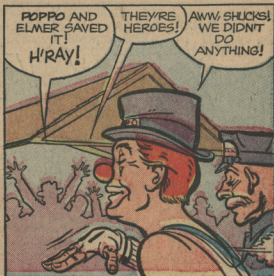
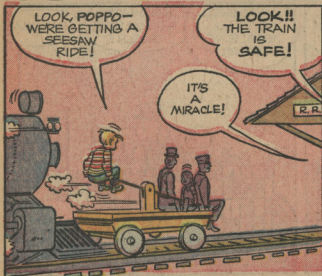
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DID IT, BUT YOU'RE A REAL HUNDRED PERCENT HERO!

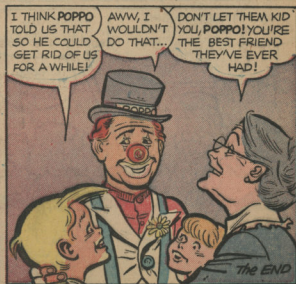
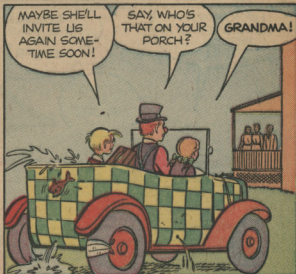
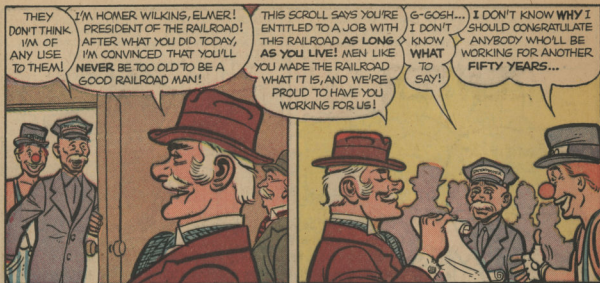
I CERTAINLY OWE YOU MY APOLOGY! YOU WERE RIGHT EVERY TIME!

SHUCKS, THAT'S OKAY! C'MON- LET'S GET THE SHOW ON THE ROAD!









CENTER RING FACTS

LITTLE BIG TOP



An unusual attraction which toured the United States in 1948 was the Dunn Brothers Circus, a miniature model that required 18 years to complete and was built on a scale of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to one foot. With its electric lights, public address system and animated sections controlled through a panel, the circus occupied a platform 34 by 83 feet and contained, besides scores of cages, trucks and ticket booths, 54 tents, 3,500 animals and 4,500 performers, employees and spectators.

* * *

SEEING SNAKES

Several decades ago when most American sideshows were fakes, one such notable character was Bosco, the Snake Eater. During the course of each day's performance he would consume about one hundred bananas, stuffed in frankfurter skins painted to resemble rattlesnakes.



HMP! HERE COMES OLD "WHIRLY" AGAIN!

* * *

LEAPING TO FAME



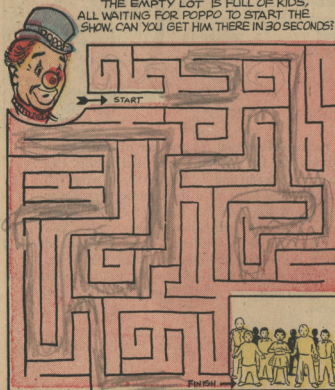
Probably the most sensational equestrian of the circus was Lucio Cristiani, of the versatile Cristiani family. His incredible somersault from one horse, entirely over the back of a second to the rump of a third horse, has never been duplicated. On a single horse, Lucio did fork jumps, single and double backward and forward somersaults, and pirouettes from one horse to another. He also balanced other members of his family on his shoulders and head, while the horse travelled about the circus ring at a full gallop. Another member of the Cristiani family was able to support a woman standing on her head atop a thirty foot pole, while riding on a horse.



IN ONE MINUTE, HOW MANY OBJECTS CAN YOU FIND IN THIS PICTURE, BEGINNING WITH POPPO'S INITIAL, P? SCORE: 10-GOOD! 15-GREAT! 20-TERRIFIC!



THE EMPTY LOT IS FULL OF KIDS, ALL WAITING FOR POPPO TO START THE SHOW. CAN YOU GET HIM THERE IN 30 SECONDS?



HERE ARE FIVE POPPO COSTUMES! ONLY TWO ARE IDENTICAL! TRY TO SPOT THEM WITHIN TEN SECONDS!



HERE'S HOW TO MAKE A POPPO MASK FOR YOUR NEXT PARTY. GET A LARGE, STRONG PAPER BAG, SUCH AS GROCERIES COME IN! CUT TWO HOLES IN THE FRONT FOR YOUR EYES!

NOW DRAW A BIG POPPO FACE ON THE FRONT! YOU CAN COLOR IT WITH PAINT OR CRAYONS TO MAKE IT GAY AND JOLLY. THEN PULL IT ON OVER YOUR HEAD! NO STRING TO TIE, AND IT CAN'T SLIP OFF!

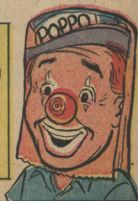


TABLE of TRICKS No. 1



POPPO USES A HANDKERCHIEF WITH A VERY WIDE HEM. A FEW STITCHES ARE TAKEN OUT OF THE BORDER, PROVIDING A LITTLE POCKET AT THE BOTTOM EDGE OF THE CLOTH TO HOLD THE COIN! WHEN THE HANDKERCHIEF IS ROLLED UP, THE DIME SLIDES INTO THE CLOTH'S CENTER.



POPPO ATTACHES A FINE BLACK SILK THREAD TO THE NICKEL WITH A DAB OF GUM! HE HOLDS THE OTHER END OF THE THREAD UNDER THE TABLE. EVERY TIME HE TUGS THE THREAD, THE COIN JUMPS.

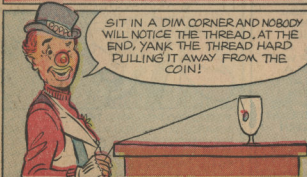


TABLE of TRICKS

No. 2

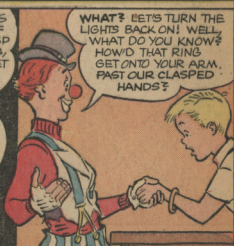


BUMPY, HERE'S A PLAIN OLD METAL RING!

I'LL DROP IT ON THE TABLE AND TURN OUT THE LIGHTS!

OKAY, THE LIGHTS ARE OUT! NOW IF YOU AND I GRASP HANDS LIKE THIS, NOTHING CAN GET ONTO YOUR ARM. CAN IT?

NOPE! SAY! I FEEL SOMETHING ON MY WRIST!



WHAT? LET'S TURN THE LIGHTS BACK ON! WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? HOW'D THAT RING GET ONTO YOUR ARM. PAST OUR CLASPED HANDS?

HERE'S HOW! AS SOON AS POPPO TURNS OFF THE LIGHT, HE PICKS UP THE RING AND SLIDES IT ONTO HIS OWN WRIST. A FEW SECONDS AFTER TAKING BUMPY'S HAND, POPPO TILTS HIS ARM SO THAT THE RING SLIDES OFF HIS WRIST AND ONTO BUMPY'S. TRY USING A LARGE BRACELET.



NOW, THIS IS AN ORDINARY PENCIL!



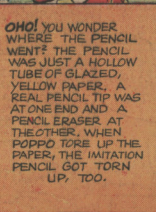
I'LL ROLL IT UP IN THIS PIECE OF PAPER...



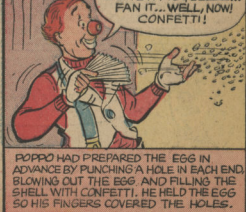
SEE THIS EGG, KIDS? WATCH CLOSELY NOW!



...THEN I'LL TEAR THE PAPER INTO LITTLE BITTY PIECES, SEE?



OH! YOU WONDER WHERE THE PENCIL WENT? THE PENCIL WAS JUST A HOLLOW TUBE OF GLAZED, YELLOW PAPER, A REAL PENCIL TIP WAS AT ONE END AND A PENCIL ERASER AT THE OTHER. WHEN POPPO TORE UP THE PAPER, THE IMITATION PENCIL GOT TORN UP, TOO.



I GIVE IT A SQUEEZE... FAN IT... WELL, NOW! CONFETTI!

POPPO HAD PREPARED THE EGG IN ADVANCE BY PUNCHING A HOLE IN EACH END, BLOWING OUT THE EGG, AND FILLING THE SHELL WITH CONFETTI. HE HELD THE EGG SO HIS FINGERS COVERED THE HOLES.

KIDS!

See and hear me every week

ON T.V.

Tune in

Poppo

"THE POPCORN THEATRE"

a full hour of fun with POPPO, cartoons,
comedies and adventure!

POPPO MAKES A TOUCHDOWN!

**HIS GOAL IS
YOUR HEART!**

*The most lovable
clown in the world
carries the ball for a
score every week!*



**DON'T FAIL TO
RESERVE YOUR
COPY!**

